

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend Claims 1, 3, 7, 9, 13, 15, 19, 21, 23, and 25 and add new Claims 27-47 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for sharing customer information among a plurality of electronic storage facilities comprising:

providing a mass data store comprising in a first data record identifying information for a customer having an associated first customer identifier;

receiving identifying information on the a customer from an electronic storage facility containing information about the customer including a second customer identifier that is different from the first customer identifier;

storing the received identifying information in a second data record;

determining that the identifying information in the first and second data records are associated with the same customer;

~~determining whether an identifier exists in a master data store for the customer based on the received identifying information;~~

assigning an identifier based on a result of the determination; and

cross-referencing the assigned identifier with the ~~received identifying information and an indication of the electronic storage facility containing the customer~~ identifying information stored in the first and second data records.

2. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, further comprising:

retrieving identifying information from the master data store based on an identifier.

3. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein identifying information includes a storage identifier to identify an electronic storage facility comprising customer transmitting identifying information, a customer identifier for identifying customer information in the electronic storage facility; and customer data for matching a customer with existing customers in the master data store.

4. (Original) The method according to Claim 3, wherein customer data includes a customer's name and address.

5. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein determining comprises:
standardizing the received identifying information; and
comparing the standardized identifying information to existing data in the master data store.

6. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein cross-referencing comprises:
creating a record in a table having a first and second field wherein the first field stores the assigned identifier and the second field stores the identifying information.

7. (Currently Amended) A computer for sharing customer information among a plurality of electronic storage facilities said computer associated with a mass data store comprising in a first data record identifying information for a customer having an associated first customer identifier, the computer comprising:

a memory having program instructions; and

a processor, responsive to the programming instructions, configured to:

receive identifying information on the a customer from an electronic storage facility containing information about the customer including a second customer identifier that is different from the first customer identifier;

store the received identifying information in a second data record;

determine that the identifying information in the first and second data records are associated with the same customer;

~~determine whether an identifier exists in a master data store for the customer based on the received identifying information;~~

assign an identifier based on a result of the determination;

cross-reference the assigned identifier with the ~~received~~ identifying information stored in the first and second data records and provide an indication of the electronic storage facility containing the customer information.

8. (Original) The computer of Claim 7, wherein the processor is further configured to: retrieve identifying information from the master data store based on an identifier.

9. (Currently Amended) The computer of Claim 7, wherein identifying information includes a storage identifier to identify an electronic storage facility comprising customer transmitting identifying information, a customer identifier for identifying customer information in the electronic storage facility; and customer data for matching a customer with existing customers in the master data store.

10. (Original) The computer of Claim 9, wherein customer data includes a customer's name and address.

11. (Original) The computer of Claim 1, wherein determine comprises: standardize the received identifying information; and compare the standardized identifying information to existing data in the master data store.

12. (Original) The computer of Claim 1, wherein cross-reference comprises: create a record in a table having a first and second field wherein the first field stores the assigned identifier and the second field stores the identifying information.

13. (Currently Amended) A system for sharing customer information among a plurality of electronic storage facilities, the system comprising:

mass data storage means comprising in a first data record identifying information for a customer having an associated first customer identifier;

means for receiving identifying information on the a customer from an electronic storage facility containing information on the customer including a second customer identifier that is different from the first customer identifier;

means for storing the received identifying information in a second data record;

means for determining that the identifying information in the first and second data records are associated with the same customer;

~~means for determining whether an identifier exists in a master data store for the customer based on the received identifying information;~~

means for assigning an identifier based on a result of the determination;

means for cross-referencing the assigned identifier with the ~~received~~ identifying information stored in the first and second data records ~~and providing an indication of the electronic storage facility containing the customer information.~~

14. (Original) The system of Claim 1, further comprising:

means for retrieving identifying information from the master data store based on an identifier.

15. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 1, wherein identifying information includes a storage identifier to identify an electronic storage facility comprising customer transmitting identifying information, a customer identifier for identifying customer information in the electronic storage facility; and customer data for matching a customer with existing customers in the master data store.

16. (Original) The system of Claim 15, wherein customer data includes a customer's name and address.

17. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein means for determining comprises:

means for standardizing the received identifying information; and

means for comparing the standardized identifying information to existing data in the master data store.

18. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein means for cross-referencing comprises:

means for creating a record in a table having a first and second field wherein the first field stores the assigned identifier and the second field stores the identifying information.

19. (Currently Amended) A system for sharing customer information among a plurality of electronic storage facilities comprising:

a plurality of electronic storage facilities for storing customer information associated with and identifying a customer; ~~and~~

a mass data store comprising in a first data record identifying information for the customer having an associated first customer identifier; and

an information system for receiving customer information from an electronic storage facility, said information system ~~comprising a master data store and being~~ capable of:

receiving identifying information on the customer from an electronic storage facility containing information on the customer including a second customer identifier that is different from the first customer identifier;

storing the received identifying information in a second data record;

determining that the identifying information in the first and second data records are associated with the same customer;

~~determining whether an identifier exists in the master data store for the customer based on the customer information identifying the customer, said information system further capable of associating~~

assigning an identifier with the customer based on a result of the determination;

and

cross-referencing the identifier with the ~~customer~~ identifying information stored in the first and second data records within the master data store.

20. (Previously Presented) The system according to Claim 19, wherein said information system is further configured to:

retrieve customer information from the master data store based on the identifier.

21. (Currently Amended) The system according to Claim 19, wherein the ~~customer~~ identifying information includes a storage identifier to identify said respective electronic storage facility comprising customer transmitting the travel-based information, a customer identifier for

identifying customer information in said electronic storage facility; and customer data for matching a customer with existing customers in the master data store.

22. (Previously Presented) The system according to Claim 19, wherein said information system cross-references the identifier with the customer information by creating a record in a table within the master data store having first and second fields, wherein the first field stores the identifier and the second field stores the customer information.

23. (Currently Amended) A system for sharing customer information among a plurality of electronic storage facilities comprising:

a plurality of electronic storage facilities for storing customer information associated with and identifying a customer, wherein each electronic storage facility uses a different identifier to identify the customer information; and

a mass data store comprising for each customer a unique identifier identifying the customer and a list of the electronic storage facilities that contain information for the customer along with the identification for the customer used by each electronic storage facility; and

a an information system in communication with said electronic storage facilities and said mass data store, wherein said information system is capable of:

receiving identifying information on the customer from a subsequent electronic storage facility containing information on the customer including a customer identifier that is different from the customer identifiers of the other electronic storage facilities listed in the mass data store;

storing the received identifying information in the list of the electronic storage facilities along with the identification for the customer used by the subsequent electronic storage facility;

cross-referencing the received identifying information from the subsequent electronic storage facility with the unique identifier identifying the customer comprises a master data store comprising for each customer a unique identifier identifying the customer and a list of the electronic facilities that contain information for the customer along with the identification for the customer used by each electronic storage facility.

24. (Previously Presented) The system according to Claim 23, wherein when said information system receives an inquiry for information associated with a customer, said information system provides information indicating which electronic storage facilities contain information related to the customer and the identification used by each electronic facility to identify the customer's information.

25. (Currently Amended) A method for sharing customer information among a plurality of electronic storage facilities comprising:

providing a plurality of electronic storage facilities, wherein each storage facility contains information concerning a customer and uses a different identifier to identify the customer information from that of the other electronic storage facilities; and

storing in a master data store for each customer a unique identifier identifying the customer and a list of the electronic facilities that contain information for the customer along with the identification for the customer used by each electronic storage facility;

receiving identifying information on the customer from a subsequent electronic storage facility containing information on the customer including a customer identifier that is different from the customer identifiers of the other electronic storage facilities listed in the mass data store;

storing the received identifying information in the list of the electronic storage facilities along with the identification for the customer used by the subsequent electronic storage facility;
and

cross-referencing the received identifying information from the subsequent electronic storage facility with the unique identifier identifying the customer.

26. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 26 further comprising:
receiving an inquiry for information associated with a customer;
accessing the master data store; and
providing information indicating which electronic storage facilities contain information related to the customer and the identification used by each electronic facility to identify the customer's information.

27. (New) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the first and second data records comprise identifying information identifying the customer and an indication of the electronic storage facility containing the customer information

28. (New) The method according to Claim 27, wherein said cross-referencing comprises cross-referencing the assigned identifier with the identifying information identifying the customer and an indication of the electronic storage facility containing the customer information for the first and second data records.

29. (New) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said determining step comprises comparing the identifying information in the first and second data records to thereby determine whether the identifying information is for the same customer.

30. (New) The method according to Claim 1, wherein identifying information includes a storage identifier to identify an electronic storage facility comprising the customer information and a customer identifier for identifying customer information in the electronic storage facility.

31. (New) The method according to Claim 30, wherein said determining step comprises comparing the customer data in the first and second data records to thereby determine whether the identifying information is for the same customer.

32. (New) The method according to Claim 30, wherein said providing step provides a mass data store comprising a plurality of data records, wherein some of the data records are for the same customer but stored in different electronic storage facilities, where the electronic storage facilities use the same customer identifier.

33. (New) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the customer information is travel-related information.

34. (New) The computer according to Claim 7, wherein the first and second data records comprise identifying information identifying the customer and an indication of the electronic storage facility containing the customer information

35. (New) The computer according to Claim 34, wherein said cross-referencing comprises cross-referencing the assigned identifier with the identifying information identifying the customer and an indication of the electronic storage facility containing the customer information for the first and second data records.

36. (New) The computer according to Claim 7, wherein said determining comprises comparing the identifying information in the first and second data records to thereby determine whether the identifying information is for the same customer.

37. (new) The computer according to Claim 7, wherein identifying information includes a storage identifier to identify an electronic storage facility comprising the customer information and a customer identifier for identifying customer information in the electronic storage facility.

38. (New) The computer according to Claim 37, wherein said determining comprises comparing the customer data in the first and second data records to thereby determine whether the identifying information is for the same customer.

39. (New) The computer according to Claim 37, wherein said mass data store comprises a plurality of data records, wherein some of the data records are for the same customer but stored in different electronic storage facilities, where the electronic storage facilities use the same customer identifier.

40. (New) The computer according to Claim 7, wherein the customer information is travel-related information.

41. (New) The system according to Claim 19, wherein the first and second data records comprise identifying information identifying the customer and an indication of the electronic storage facility containing the customer information

42. (New) The system according to Claim 41, wherein said cross-referencing means cross-references the assigned identifier with the identifying information identifying the customer and an indication of the electronic storage facility containing the customer information for the first and second data records.

43. (New) The system according to Claim 19, wherein said determining means comprises means for comparing the identifying information in the first and second data records to thereby determine whether the identifying information is for the same customer.

44. (New) The system according to Claim 19, wherein identifying information includes a storage identifier to identify an electronic storage facility comprising the customer information and a customer identifier for identifying customer information in the electronic storage facility.

45. (New) The system according to Claim 44, wherein said determining means comprises means for comparing the customer data in the first and second data records to thereby determine whether the identifying information is for the same customer.

46. (New) The system according to Claim 44, wherein said mass data store means comprises a plurality of data records, wherein some of the data records are for the same customer but stored in different electronic storage facilities, where the electronic storage facilities use the same customer identifier.

47. (New) The system according to Claim 19, wherein the customer information is travel-related information.